

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. USSR: KOSYGIN ILLNESS STORY MAY SIGNAL CHANGES

EMBASSY MOSCOW BELIEVES CONFIRMED SOURCING OF THE KOSYGIN ILLNESS STORY TO VICTOR LOUIS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A SIGNAL THAT LEADERSHIP CHANGES MAY BE IN THE OFFING. THE EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHO AMONG THE MAJOR CANDIDATES HAS THE INSIDE TRACK OR WHERE CHANGES WILL LEAD. A PRIME CONCERN IN MAKING CHANGES IN THE LEADERSHIP WILL BE MAKING AS FEW WAVES AS POSSIBLE. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT A REPLACEMENT FROM THE SAME GENERATION WOULD CAUSE THE FEWEST PROBLEMS. CHOOSING ONE OF THE RELATIVELY YOUNGER MEN TO REPLACE KOSYGIN WOULD SIGNAL A CHANGING OF THE GUARD WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE MESSY AND UNWELCOME FRICTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 13742, 8/31.)

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2. SPAIN: EDGING TOWARD NATO

FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA TOLD AMBASSADOR STABLER AUGUST 30 THAT THE KING AND PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ CONSIDER SPAIN'S GREATER ORIENTATION TOWARD NATO TO BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS FACING THE COUNTRY. NOTING THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY HAS TOO LONG LOOKED SOUTHWARD TOWARD MOROCCO AND THE SAHARA, OREJA STATED:

--THE SPANISH ARMY, WHICH GREATLY SUSPECTS NATO, FEARS A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT COHESION AND DISCIPLINE.

--THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE, WHICH HAVE HAD MORE EXPOSURE TO NATO, FAVOR AN EXPANDED ASSOCIATION.

--PARTICULAR EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO BRING THE ARMY AROUND TO A MORE FAVORABLE VIEW OF NATO. (SECRET)
MADRID 6645, 8/31.)

3. JAPAN: COMPROMISE IN THE WORKS?

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE IN THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAY BE SETTLED BY A COMPROMISE. THE AGREEMENT, AS PROPOSED BY PRIME MINISTER MIKI, CALLS FOR:

--A SHUFFLE OF THE LDP LEADERSHIP AND CABINET;

--AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION TO DEAL WITH URGENT BUDGET-RELATED LEGISLATION; AND

--A DECISION ON LDP ELECTION TACTICS.

THE EMBASSY NOTES THE GENERAL FEELING IN TOKYO IS THAT THE COMPROMISE WILL BE ACCEPTED, EVEN THOUGH THE TIMING OF MIKI'S RESIGNATION IS LEFT INTENTIONALLY VAGUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 13114, 8/31.)

4. NEW ZEALAND: BRING ON THE NPW'S

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PRIME MINISTER MULDOON TOLD AMBASSADOR SELDEN ON AUGUST 31 THAT ANOTHER NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND WOULD BE VERY WELCOME. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD HELP DEFUSE THE NPW ISSUE AND CONDITION NEW ZEALANDERS TO VIEWING SUCH VISITS AS LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM A CALL BY A CONVENTIONALLY POWERED WARSHIP. HE ADDED THAT A VISIT WITHIN 4 TO 6 WEEKS WOULD BE IDEAL.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD APPROVE THE VISIT OF A SECOND NPW TO NEW ZEALAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER ANZUS EXERCISE "KANGAROO II." (SECRET) WELLINGTON 3277, 8/31.)

5. THAILAND: DEMONSTRATIONS BRING PRESSURE FROM HANOI

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT ANTI-VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATIONS IN NORTHERN THAILAND HAVE PLACED A SERIOUS STRAIN ON THE RECENTLY DEVELOPED RELATIONS WITH HANOI. THE SRV HAS PROTESTED THE INCIDENTS, DEMANDING THAT THAILAND TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE ATTACKS ON VIETNAMESE, RELEASE THOSE IN JAIL, AND INDEMNIFY THOSE WHO INCUR DAMAGES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE DEMONSTRATIONS MAY SUBSIDE, PARTICULARLY IF THE POLICE SHOW THE MUSCLE PRIME MINISTER SENI HAS REQUESTED, THE SEPARATE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC IDENTITY OF THE VIETNAMESE IN THAILAND IS LIABLE TO BE A BILATERAL PROBLEM FOR A LONG TIME. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BANGKOK 24391 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 24449, 8/31.)

6. TANZANIA: UNION CALLS FOR SHIPPING BOYCOTT

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TANGANYIKA WORKERS (NUTA) HAS CALLED ON THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TO DENY LANDING AND BERTHING RIGHTS TO AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS THAT ENJOY SIMILAR RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE ACTING MANAGER OF THE STATE-OWNED NATIONAL SHIPPING AGENCIES COMPANY TOLD EMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BEING CONSIDERED BUT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO EMBARK ON A SHIPPING BOYCOTT WHICH WOULD ENTAIL
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CONSIDERABLE TRANSPORT DISLOCATION AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO PROBE TOO DEEPLY INTO GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS FOR FEAR OF PRECIPITATING IMPLEMENTATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) DAR ES SALAAM 3172, 8/31.) ROBINSON

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